The demand was put to vote and carried.
The grant was made.

DEMAND II—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott ; Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,000 for closing the leakages in the Main dam at Pachipara. The increase in the leakage through the main dam at Pachipara has been a matter of anxiety to Government and the department and it was decided that necessary steps should be taken to effect repairs as early as possible. The work was contemplated to take about three years to complete. Owing to the long and exceptionally dry weather it was found that the work could be carried on for a longer time than originally contemplated and it is to meet the extra expenditure on this account that I have now come to this House for a supplementary grant.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know when the estimate was prepared?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Last year.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: At what time?

Mr. G. B. E Truscott: Before the Budget.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether the allotment of Rs. 10,000 sanctioned for the current year has been spent already?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Yes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: What is the work that is proposed to be done with this Rs. 7,000?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: For raking out and pointing with cement the water face of the dam as low as possible, boring holes in the masonry and grouting them with cement grout.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know from the member whether these works could not have been contemplated at the time when the budget was prepared?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Owing to the exceptional dry weather we were able to carry on the work quicker and longer than we anticipated when framing the estimate.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know how long they were carrying on this work?

Mr. G. B E. Truscott: For nearly two years.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know the amount already spent?

Mr. G. B. E Truscott: About Rs. 27,000.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know from the member whether the dam is in a safe condition now?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I hope it is safe now.

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Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know from the member whether there is such leakage in the Periyar dam and what Government do in such cases?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: They are trying to close them in the same manner

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know the cause of such leakages?

Mr. G. B. E Truscott: By water percolating through the masonry in the dam and washing out the mortar.

Mr. P Padmanabhan Tampi: May I know whether it is below or above the water level?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: Below the full supply water level.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tapmi: May I know the quantity of water now available in the dam?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: 3·65 feet.

Mr. S. Piraviperumal Pillai: May I know from the member whether, if this amount is not granted, the dam will be completely dried?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: No.

President: The question before the House is that a sum of Rs. 7,000 be granted under Demand II—Public Works Department for closing the leakages of the main dam at Pachipara.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: Sir, I support the motion. In doing so I have to bring certain important facts to the notice of the Government and the Chief Engineer. The water in the reservoir was expected to be supplied even during the monsoon. By the failure of monsoon last year there was absolutely no water and Government in a communique stated that the water would be sufficient for 20,000 acres of land. Even that was not found to be fulfilled for want of water. Now there is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of water in the reservoir. There is the Government order dated the 13th January 1914 that the dam be opened on that particular date. Even that date was fixed after a great deal of deliberation in the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and a conference was held in Bhaktivilas under the presidency of Sir P. Rajagopalachari for the purpose. The dam was opened on the 13th January and the very next day it broke. Sir, I do not describe the conditions obtaining in South Travancore. All the tanks are dry. Even the wells are actually dry. There is no water for men and cattle to drink. Cattle are dying for want of drinking water. It is at such a time that the dam was closed. If there was sufficient water in the reservoir tanks and wells could have been filled up. It may be said that the water in Pachipara is not meant for communal purposes but for

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agricultural purposes. That is wrong. We will find from the publication issued by Government that a large number of tanks are intended for communal purposes.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know what the member means by "communal purposes?"

Mr. P. Padamanabhan Tampi: For cooking and other domestic purposes. It is very hard to say when there is a storage of water that it cannot be supplied for drinking purposes. It is inhuman and I can say that the Reservoir officers are not justified in closing the dam when there is a Government order that the reservoir should be opened on the 13th of January every year.

There is also a Central Board. That has not been abolished. It is still in existence. We do not know how it is working. There is a resolution passed to this effect on 17-10-1104 in a meeting under the presidency of Mr. T. Kumara Pillai. It runs as follows:—

> "Read letter dated 17-10-1104 from Mr. T. Kumara Pillai, Member M. Group, regarding the desirability of continuously letting out water from the Kodayar Reservoir for irrigation purposes from the 20th May 1929. Mr. Kumara Pillai proposed that the Kodayar channels be opened on the 20th May every year as per G. O. No. 540/L. R. and F., dated the 13th January 1914, and that water should be given continuously to all ryots except those who do not require the same It was also proposed by him that a meeting of the Central Irrigation Board might be convened every year before the 25th April to give public information, among other matters, regarding the condition of the Kodayar Reservoir. These proposals were unanimously accepted."

Sir, for the closing of the reservoir the Board was not consulted and no information was given to the public. On a fine morning it was opened and in the evening it was closed. My main objections for that are three.

First of all the opinion of experts and the promise given by the Government is that the water will be sufficient for the three crops. Now it is not sufficient even for one crop. Recently there has been a catchment area. It is now under the control of the Forest Department. That depatment has cut all the trees standing there and allowed people to take away grass. So the moisture is not prevented and there is no rain in the reservoir. There is another strong objection for the removal of the trees and grass from the catchment area. By the removal of these trees the surface of the soil is loosened and during rainy season it is taken to the reservoir and the capacity of the reservoir becomes smaller in extent. Another reason, as pointed out by the Chief Engineer, is the leakage. There is leakage in the dam and the department was working

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[Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi.]

for the last three years to stop the leakage. I cannot understand why it has not been stopped as yet. The third reason is that there is no sufficient storage of water. During the rainy season the excess water is taken to the sea. I suppose the tanks are not restored. A provision of Rs, 40,000 was sanctioned for the restoration of these tanks, Now not a single rupee is sanctioned for this purpose. If these tanks are restored water could be stored and they could be used during the hot season.

Another reason is that the capacity of the reservoir is not increased. Now the height of the dam is only 14 feet. There was a proposal to raise it 3 feet more. The Government order No. 540 dated 13th January 1930 was to raise the height of the level 3 feet more and an estimate was called for and the Chief Engineer has submitted it. It is now nearly 20 years since the dam has been opened.

President. The Hon'ble member has been on his legs for the last 15 minutes. He must soon stop.

Mr. P. Padmanabhan Tampi: I request that the Government order be taken up and that 3 feet more be added to the present level of the reservoir. If it is done there will be sufficient water during all the seasons of the year. With these words I pray that the grant be sanctioned.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: പേച്ചിപ്പാറ അണയിലെ അറകുറ്റങ്ങൾ തീക്കുന്നതിനു 6 0 0 0 രൂപാ വേണമെന്നാണ് ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടന്നതു. അണയുടെ നിർമ്മാണാനന്തരം ഇതുവരെ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള അറകുറ്റപ്പണികൾക്കായി ഒരു ഡിമാൻറു കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നില്ല. അണയുടെ അറകുറ്റപ്പണി ഇപ്പോൾ അടിയന്തിരമായിതന്നെ ചെയ്തീർക്കേണ്ടതാണോ എന്നതിനെ സംശയം തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടു. ദക്ഷിണതിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആവശ്യത്തിലേക്കു ഈ തുക അനുവദിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് തരക്കേടില്ല അടുത്ത ബഡ്ജറു സമർപ്പിക്കാൻ ഇനി ഒന്നരമാസമെ ഉള്ളു. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ബഡ്ജറിൽ ചേർത്തുകൊണ്ടുവരുന്നതിനുസൌകര്യം ഉള്ളതിനാൽ അതുവരെ ക്ഷമിക്കാതെ ഇപ്പോൾതന്നെ വേണമെന്നു് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നതു് എന്തിനാണെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല. ഈ ഘട്ടത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു ചിലവിന്റെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നു നോക്കേണ്ടതാണു്.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: മഴക്കാലം തുടങ്ങിയാൽ നന്നാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു അറിയാമോ?

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Mr. J. John Kattakayam: അതിവർഷം അടുത്തുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു ശരിതന്നെ,

"ഇടവപ്പാതി കഴിഞ്ഞാൽപിന്നെ
കുടക്കുടാതെ നടക്കരുതാരും."

(ചിരി) എന്നു പറയുന്നുണ്ട്.

പേപ്പിപ്പാറ അണയിൽ വെള്ളം തടഞ്ഞുനിത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വെള്ളം കൃഷി ആവശ്യത്തിനല്ലെങ്കിൽ പിന്നെ എന്തിനാണ്. വെള്ളം തുറന്നുവിടാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുമേലധികാരി നിർബന്ധംപിടിക്കാൻ എന്താണു കാരണം. ആ വിഷയങ്ങളെപ്പറ്റി ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാൻ എന്റെ മാന്യസ്നേഹിതൻ മി: പത്മനാഭൻതമ്പി ഒരു അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയം കൊണ്ടുവന്നു എങ്കിലും അതിനെ അനുവദിക്കാതിരിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ സംഗതികാം എല്ലാംകൂടി നോക്കുമ്പോൾ അണയിലെ വെള്ളം തുറന്നുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പ്രത്യക്ഷമാകുന്നതാണ്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധ ഞാനിതേപ്പറ്റി പറഞ്ഞു അതിനു പരിഹാരമാർഗ്ഗം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു അപേക്ഷിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. E. P. Varghese: Sir, I oppose this Demand not that I am unaware that the leakage should be closed, but because there are only a few months before us for the budget session and the Government member could have waited till then without danger and include this sum in the new budget. I cannot approve of this practice of bringing in supplementary grants in every session. If so, I do not understand what is the purpose of the budget session. If the departments demand sums as the need arises then there is no need of the budget.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know whether the member would have had any objection if the Government had spent this amount and placed a statement on the table?

Mr. E. P. Varghese: Certainly, I would have objected it, if without the sanction of this House, the amount had been spent.

Secondly, I want to call the attention of the Chief Engineer to the difficulties experienced in North Travancore. The Engineering Department seems to be very solicitous about the needs of South Travancore but passes over the needs of North Travancore.

President: That does not arise. On a supplementary grant all questions which are not relevant to the supplementary grant are not permitted for discussion.

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Mr. E. P. Varghese; Sir, with the remarks that I have made about the way in which the demand is made at every session when it could very well have been included in the last budget and especially at the time when the next budget is so very near, I do think we can very safely postpone the work till the budget session. With these words I oppose the motion.

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I have not many words to say. I should like to say in reply to the first speaker that according to the rules we should open the gates on the 20th May and pending instructions the gates were opened and immediately closed in view of the fact that no benefit could be derived from such a small amount of water in the lake at that time.

Mr. E. P. Varghese May I know from the member whether the work is to be done by the department or to be given on contract?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: The work is being done by the department.

Regarding the cutting of trees in the catchment area I do not think the cutting already done has any effect on the rainfall, but I may tell the members that in a short time proposals for increasing the catchment area will be submitted to Government and also that proposals are before Government at the present time for erecting shutters on the surplus weir whereby the lake level can be raised by 3 feet. And regarding the question of the last speaker, I would say that the money is required for payment this year.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: May I know, from the member whether this is the first time that a demand for closing of the leakages of the dam is made?

Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: I have not made any previous proposals.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—EXCISE.

Mr. C. O. Madhavan: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 5,728 composed of Rs. 4,400 under transport charges of salt and Rs. 1,328 for the staff of the Sri Chitra Tirunal Muthuswamy Salt Factory opened at Kovalam near the Cape and the Tattarippu Odai Salt Factory.

I shall briefly explain the circumstances under which the supplementary demand has been made for transport charges of salt. This year tenders were invited for the transport of 2 lakhs of maunds of salt from the factories to the depots. A provision of Rs. 50,000 had been made in the budget for the current year under this item. The contract for transport was given to the lowest

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